

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /071 W

----- 043022

R 111108Z DEC 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1470

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0880

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SP, XF

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN VISIT TO SPAIN

REF: BAGHDAD 865 (NOTAL)

1. IT GENERALLY IMPORTANT TO JUSTIFY RCC VICE
CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT. YET AS NOTED
REFTEL, TIMING IS VERY SURPRISING GIVEN SADDAM'S HEAVY
SCHEDULE AND RESPONSIBILITIES AT HOME.

2. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR TIMING OF VISIT IS
SPANISH SAHARA. AS DEPT AWARE, ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE AT
RABAT AGREED THAT EGYPT, SAUDIA ARABIA, JORDAN AND
MOROCCO WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO RESOLVE KURDISH CONFLICT
AND BRING ABOUT IRAQI-IRANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT. THIS IS
IRAQ'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM AND IRAQ'S RECENT RAPPROCHE-
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MENT WITH JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA ALMOST CERTAINLY

MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO SPEED UP THIS ARAB EFFORT VIS-A-VIS IRAN. SINCE KING HASSAN IS PRESUMABLY EQUALLY ANXIOUS TO PUT NEW ARAB POWER AND SOLIDARITY TO WORK IN HIS INTERESTS, HE MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED IRAQ, WITH WHICH SPAIN HAS CLOSE AND INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT REALTIONSHIP, TO BRING PRESSURE ON SPAIN TO RELINQUISH SPANISH SAHARA AS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ARAB WORLD.

3. COMMENT: IF THIS ADMITTEDLY SPECULATIVE THESIS IS CORRECT, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE WIDE RANGE OF BI-LATERAL ISSUES ON WHICH ARAB STATES, IN FLUSH OF THEIR NEWLY FOUND SOLIDARITY AND POWER, WILL BRING FULL WEIGHT TO BEAR ON NON-ARABS.

LOWRIE

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